

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /052 W

-----048964 160813Z /10

O R 160753Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEIDATE 5753

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6825

E.9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: REACTION TO ROKG AUGUST 15 PRISONER RELEASE

REF: SEOUL 6789

1. ON AUGUST 15, ROKG RELEASED 2,420 PRISONERS. MOST WERE COMMON CRIMINALS WHO RECEIVED SPECIAL PAROLE AS "EXEMPLARY PRISONERS", BUT 17 WERE VIOLATORS OF EMERGENCY MEASURES. KWANGJU CLERGYMEN MENTIONED IN REFTEL WERE AMONG THOSE FREED, AS WAS JAPANESE CITIZEN YUKIATSU SAWANOBURI. ONE OF THOSE RELEASED HAD VIOLATED EMERGENCY MEASURE NUMBER 4; THE OTHERS EMERGENCY MEASURE NUMBER 9. ALL REPORTEDLY HAD SIGNED STATEMENTS OF REPENTANCE.

2. RULING AND OPPOSITION PARTY SPOKESMEN WELCOMED GOVERNMENT ACTION. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO DAILY HANGUK ILBO, NDP LEADER YI CHOL SEUNG TOLD MINISTER OF EDUCATION THAT ROKG HAD BEEN "TOO STINGY" ON THIS OCCASION. ACCORDING TO REV. KIM KWAN-SUK, KNCC SEC GEN, A GROUP OF CHRISTIANS HAS BEGUN A HUNGER STRIKE AT SEOUL'S CHEIL CHRUCH TO PROTEST SMALL NUMBER OF EM VIOLATORS RELEASED.

3. REV. KIM SAID THAT STATEMENT SIGNED BY THOSE RELEASED
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HAD TWO MAIN POINTS: A) EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE FOR OPPORTUNITY TO GET OUT OF JAIL; AND B) PROMISE BY SIGNER TO APPLY HIMSELF SOLEY TO HIS PROFESSION AND ABIDE BY APPROPRIATE KOREAN LAWS.

4. COMMENT: HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS HAD CONSIDERED RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC PROTEST ACTIVITIES IF ROKG HAD NOT MADE SIGNIFICANT RELEASE OF PRISONERS BY AUGUST 15, AND HUNGER STRIKE A SIGN

THAT ROKG TIMETABLE TOO SLOW FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW.
STERN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL06825
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770294-1007
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From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770857/aaaabwbj.tel
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: SHUM, PINT, KS
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